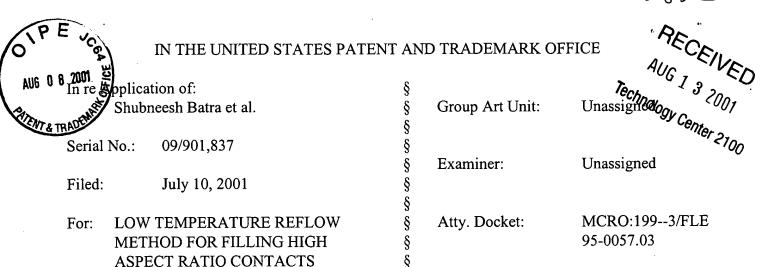
287J



Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING 37 C.F.R. 1.8

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on the date below:

August 3, 2001

Date

Michael G. Fletche

Sir:

## SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97(b)(1) AND 1.98

In compliance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(a), Applicants respectfully request that this Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement be entered and that the listed references be considered by the Examiner and made of record. Copies of the listed references are enclosed for the convenience of the Examiner.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97, this Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement is not to be construed as a representation that a search has been made, as an admission that the information cited herein is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. §1.56(b), or as a representation that no other possibly material information, as defined in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(b), exists.

Furthermore, the references listed on the attached Form 1449 are not to be construed as an

admission that these references qualify as prior art as to the above-referenced application or any

related application. Rather, these references are being presented for the Examiner's consideration

without prejudice to Applicants' right to demonstrate that any of these references do not qualify as

prior art should the Examiner choose to apply any of these references.

The following information is listed below in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.98. Any

explanation of non-English language documents contained in this Supplemental Information

Disclosure Statement is believed to constitute a concise explanation of the relevance of the listed

reference as it is presently understood by the individual designated in § 1.56(c) most

knowledgeable about the content of the listed reference, in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3).

Respectfully submitted,

Date: August 3, 2001

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